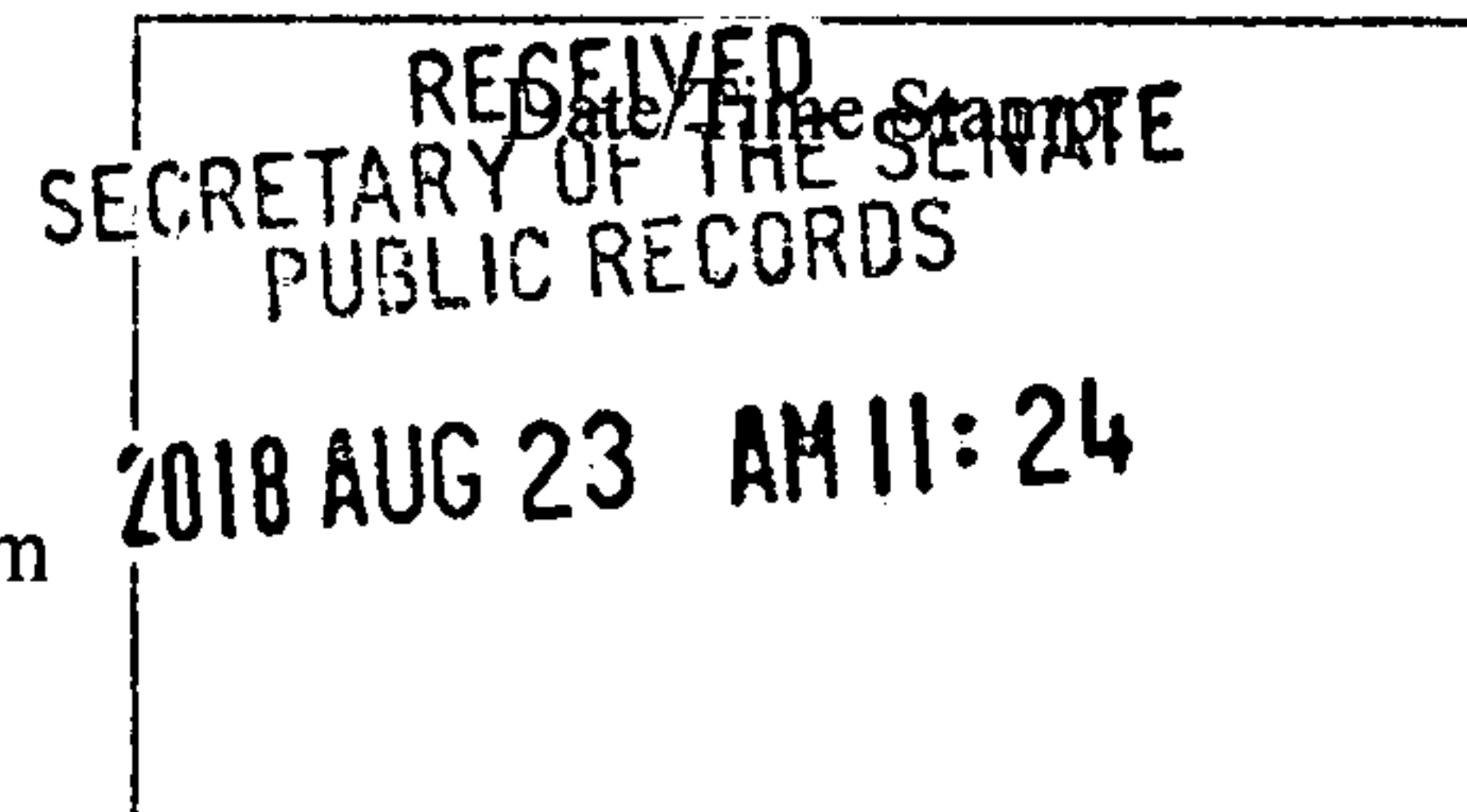


Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses



Post-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the **Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building**.

In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I make the following disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me. I also certify that I have attached:

- ☐ The **original** *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* (Form RE-1), **AND**
☐ A **copy** of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form* with all attachments (itinerary, invitee list, etc.)

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): Bertelsmann Foundation

Travel date(s): August 1-4th, 2018

Name of accompanying family member (if any): _____

Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

IF THE COST OF LODGING **DID NOT INCREASE** DUE TO THE ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD, ONLY INCLUDE LODGING COSTS IN EMPLOYEE EXPENSES. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Expenses for Employee:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate <input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount	\$275.00	\$775	\$250	

Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child (if applicable):

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate <input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount				

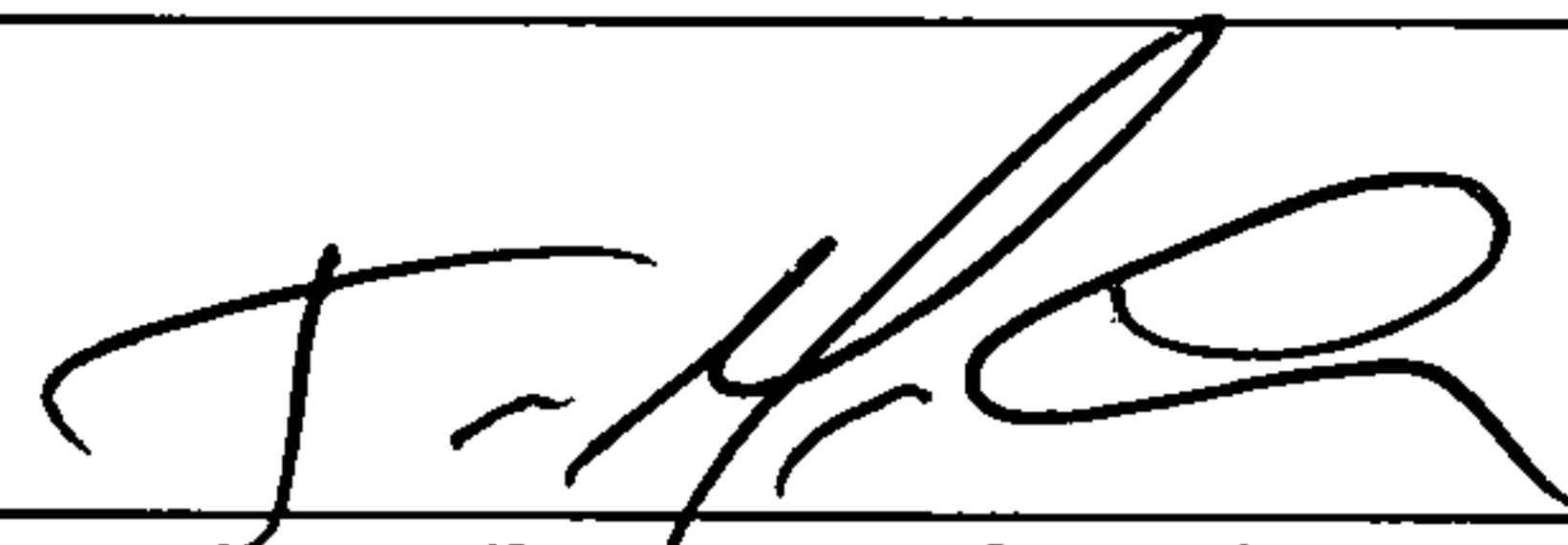
Provide a description of all meetings and events attended. See Senate Rule 35.2(c)(6). (Attach additional pages if necessary.): During the meetings, I met with industry professionals to learn about market issues related to the digital economy and the regulatory and legal challenges the face

8/22/18

(Date)

Terrence M. Andrews

(Printed name of traveler)



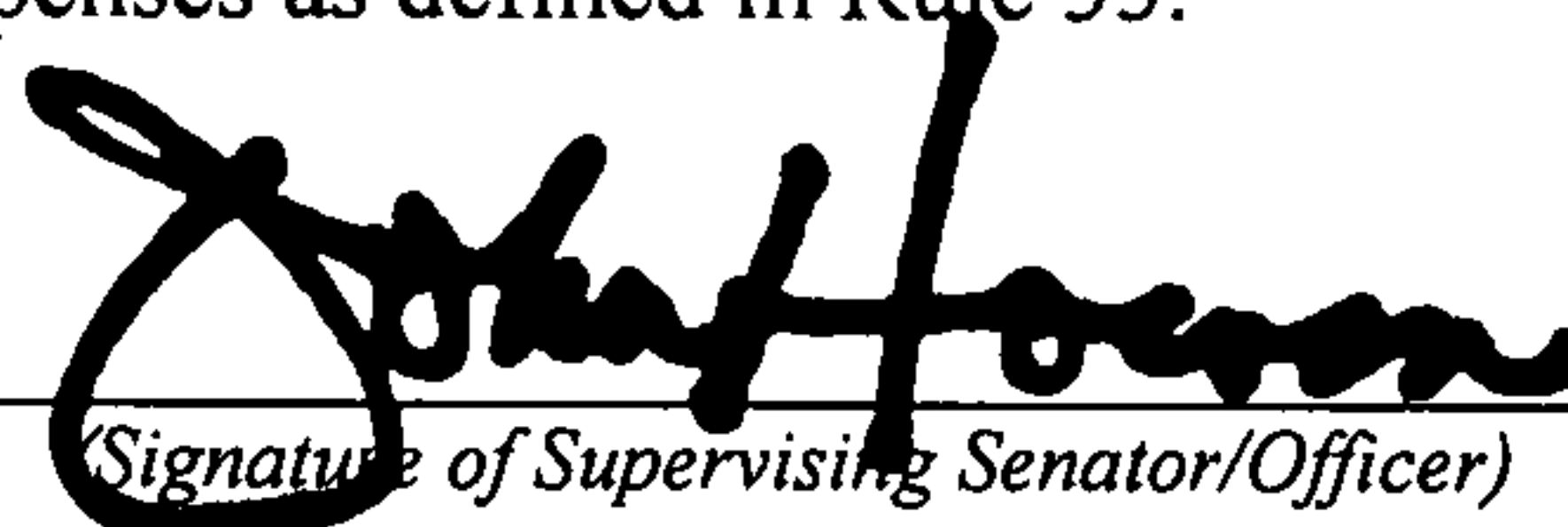
(Signature of traveler)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER:

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

8/22/18

(Date)



(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

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EMPLOYEE PRE-TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics** in SH-220. Incomplete and late travel submissions will not be considered or approved. This form must be typed and is available as a fillable PDF on the Committee's website at ethics.senate.gov. Retain a copy of your entire pre-travel submission for your required post-travel disclosure.

Name of Traveler: Terrence M. Andrews

Employing Office/Committee: Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): Bertelsmann Foundation

Travel date(s): August 1-4th, 2018

Note: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you must notify the Committee.

Destination(s): New York, NY

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

"This trip will bring together experts involving digital economies. As Staff Director for the Indian Affairs Committee, Tribal economies have also participated in this space. I intend to learn more about how Tribes can be better equipped to handle this growing economy."

Name of accompanying family member (if any): _____

Relationship to Employee: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge:

7/25/18

(Date)

T. M. Andrews
(Signature of Employee)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING SENATOR/OFFICER (President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain):

I, Sen. John Hoeven

(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize

T. Michael Andrews

(Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate. (signify "yes" by checking box) ☐

7/25/18

(Date)

John Hoeven
(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)



Itinerary for Washington, DC and Silicon Valley, CA

July 30 – August 4, 2018

Monday, July 30

- 9:00 am** **Information Technology and Innovation Foundation**
Speakers: Robert Atkinson, President; Stephen Ezell, Vice President
1101 K Street NW, Suite 610
Washington, DC 20005
- 10:30 am** **Office of the United States Trade Representative**
Speaker: David Weiner, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Europe
Office of the United States Trade Representative
- 12:30 pm** **Lunch Discussion – Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Work**
Speaker: Dipayan Ghosh, Public Interest Technology Fellow, New America
Foundation; Darrell West, Vice President and Director, Governance Studies,
Brookings Institution; Vikash Khatri, Vice President for AI, Afiniti
Restaurant Nora
2132 Florida Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008
- 2:30 pm** **Federal Communications Commission**
Speaker: TBC
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
- 4:00 pm** **U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information
Administration**
Speaker: TBC
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230
- 6:00 pm** **Welcome Reception – Bertelsmann Foundation Rooftop**
1275 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004
- 8:00 pm** **CEPI Fellows Welcome Dinner/Screening of Bertelsmann Foundation
Documentary, *Cuba's Digital Revolution***
MXDC, 600 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20005
Bertelsmann Foundation, 1275 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC
20004

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Tuesday, July 31

- 9:00 am** **US Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration**
Speaker: TBC
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
- 11:00 am** **National Security Council, Cybersecurity Dialogue**
Speaker: Nick Polk, Special Assistant for Cybersecurity Policy
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20502
- 1:00 pm** **Lunch Discussion – Global Internet Governance**
Speaker: Ambassador Daniel Sepulveda, non-resident fellow, The German Marshall Fund of the United States
Location TBC
- 3:00 pm** **U.S. Department of Energy, Advanced Research Projects Agency**
Speaker: TBC
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585
- 6:00 pm** **Dinner Discussion – Congressional High Tech Caucus**
Speaker: Rep. Suzan DelBene (Invited, TBC)
Bistro Cacao
320 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Wednesday, August 1

- 9:00 am** **Google**
Speakers: David Lieber, Senior Policy Counsel; Michele Lynch, International Relations Manager; Ria Bailey-Galvis, International Relations Analyst
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW – 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20001
- 11:00 am** **Facebook**
Speakers: Will Nuland, Analyst, Facebook Threat Intelligence
1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
- 1:00 pm** **Lunch Discussion - Uber**
Speaker: Malcolm Glenn, Manager, Strategic Partnerships and Public Policy
Location TBD
- 4:00 pm** **Travel to New York, NY (Depart from Union Station via Amtrak)**

7:30 pm **Check in at Novotel New York Hotel**
226 West 52nd Street
New York, NY 10019

Thursday, August 2

9:00 am **World Economic Forum – Digital Economy and Society**
Speaker: TBC
350 Madison Avenue, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10017, USA

11:00 am **City of New York – NYCx Initiative**
Speaker: TBC
City Hall Park
New York, NY 10007

2:00 pm **IEX Group (FinTech startup)**
4 World Trade Center, 44th Floor
New York, NY 10007

4:00 pm **Zola (Digital company focused on wedding industry)**
Speaker: Jason Toris, Lead Engineer
150 Broadway
New York, NY 10038

6:00 pm **Dinner Discussion – Investing in Tech**
Speaker: Richard Sarnoff, Chairman, Media, Entertainment, and Education, KKR
Location TBD

Friday, August 3

9:00 am **ConsenSys (blockchain startup)**
Speaker: Ben Siegel, Impact Policy Manager
Meeting location TBC

11:00 am **German Accelerator Tech**
Speaker: Dirk Kanngiesser, President
433 Broadway, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10013

1:00 – 5:00 pm **Cornell University Tech Campus – Academic Programs, Entrepreneur services, Campus tour, CEPI closeout session**
Speakers: (Invited) Dr. Shiri Azenkot, Dr. Deborah Estrin, Dr. Serge Belongie
Cornell Tech
2 West Loop Road
New York, NY 10044

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BertelsmannFoundation

June 8, 2018

T. Michael Andrews
Staff Director and Chief Counsel
United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
Hart Senate Office Building, SH-838
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Andrews,

It is my pleasure to invite you to participate in the 2018 Congressional European Parliamentary Initiative (CEPI). The program will take place during the week of July 30th in Washington, DC and New York, NY, and during the week of September 17th in Brussels, Belgium and Berlin, Germany.

In the weeks leading up to the CEPI program, we will send you a final agenda for the Washington and New York program, as well as reading materials that might help you prepare for the week. We will also introduce you to other participants so that you may connect before the program begins.

The Bertelsmann Foundation aims to create a rewarding and edifying experience for the participants of the CEPI program. To that end, we welcome any recommendations you might have for stakeholder meetings, site visits, and relevant topics to cover.

To confirm your participation, please notify me at Michael.McKeon@bfna.org or at 202-621-1724 no later than Tuesday, June 12, 2018. Once you confirm, we will begin the ethics clearance process. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like to discuss the program further.

Best regards,



Michael McKeon
Manager, Economic and Legislative Affairs

PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

This form must be completed by any private entity offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to Senate Members, officers, or employees (Senate Rule 35, clause 2). Each sponsor of a fact-finding trip must sign the completed form. The trip sponsor(s) must provide a copy of the completed form to each invited Senate traveler, who will then forward it to the Ethics Committee with any other required materials. The trip sponsor(s) should **NOT** submit the form directly to the Ethics Committee. Please consult the accompanying instructions for more detailed definitions and other key information.

The Senate Member, officer, or employee **MUST** also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.

1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors): Bertelsmann Foundation (BFNA)
2. Description of the trip: Professional exchange program around the theme of digital economy for senior staff of the US Congress, European Parliament, and German Bundestag
3. Dates of travel: August 1-4, 2018
4. Place of travel: New York, NY
5. Name and title of Senate invitees: T. Michael Andrews, Majority Staff Director and Chief Counsel
6. I *certify* that the trip fits one of the following categories:
☒ (A) The sponsor(s) are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

- OR -

☐ (B) The sponsor or sponsors are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, but retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and the trip meets the requirements of Senate Rule 35.2(a)(2)(A)(i) or (ii) (*see question 9*).
7. ☒ I *certify* that the trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.

- AND -

☒ I *certify* that the sponsor or sponsors will not accept funds or in-kind contributions earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.
8. I *certify* that:
☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except for *de minimis* lobbyist involvement.

- AND -

☒ The traveler will not be accompanied on the trip by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except as provided for by Committee regulations relating to lobbyist accompaniment (*see question 9*).

15. Briefly describe the educational activities performed by each sponsor (other than sponsoring congressional trips):

BFNA regularly performs educational activities such as panel and roundtable discussions, town hall events to facilitate policy debates, documentary screenings, and publication of a range of publications.

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith estimate	\$275 (including train to and from New York City)	\$775	\$250	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts				

17. State whether a) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation or b) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:

All program events (meetings w/ stakeholders, internal group brainstorming sessions, site visits, etc.) are arranged specifically w/ regard to participation of Congress and European and German Parliament staff.

18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip

The program theme is the digital economy. We are traveling to NYC because many relevant elements (AI, FinTech, cryptocurrency, academic innovation programs) are prevalent there.

19. Name and location of hotel or other lodging facility:

Novotel New York - 226 W 52nd St, New York, NY 10019

20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility:

Cost relative to other hotels during these dates, as well as location.

9. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 6(B)**

I *certify* that if the sponsor or sponsors retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, one of the following scenarios applies:

☐ (A) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip.

- OR -

☐ (B) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip (*see questions 6 and 10*).

- OR -

☐ (C) The trip is being sponsored only by an organization or organizations designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

10. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 9(B)**

If the trip includes two overnight stays, please explain why the second night is practically required for Senate invitees to participate in the travel:

11. ☒ An itinerary for the trip is attached to this form. I *certify* that the attached itinerary is a detailed (hour-by-hour), complete, and final itinerary for the trip.

12. Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:

BFNA is a non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)3 organization. As the sole sponsor of this trip, the organization funds all travel, activities, accommodation, etc., planned the agenda, and carries out all logistics.

13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:

BFNA's mission through the Congressional European Parliamentary Initiative is to provide participants an in-depth understanding of the program's theme (digital economy) through meetings, workshops, and other events with expert stakeholders and to create transatlantic professional networks among legislative staff.

14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:

BFNA has sponsored congressional trips to Brussels and Berlin for policy exchange with staff of the European Parliament and German Bundestag for the past several years. BFNA has a MECEA waiver from the State Department for those trips through partnership with the German Embassy.

21. Describe how the daily expenses for lodging, meals, and other expenses provided to trip participants compares to the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel:

The daily expense for lodging is \$259 (2018 per diem rate for New York is \$291).

Estimated meal expenses amount to approximately \$50 per day.

Other expenses include transportation within New York City, which should amount to approx. \$25 per day

22. Describe the type and class of transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first class transportation will be provided. If first-class fare is being provided, please explain why first-class travel is necessary:

Participants will travel by train (Amtrak) to and from New York City in coach class. Within New York City, participants will use public transportation

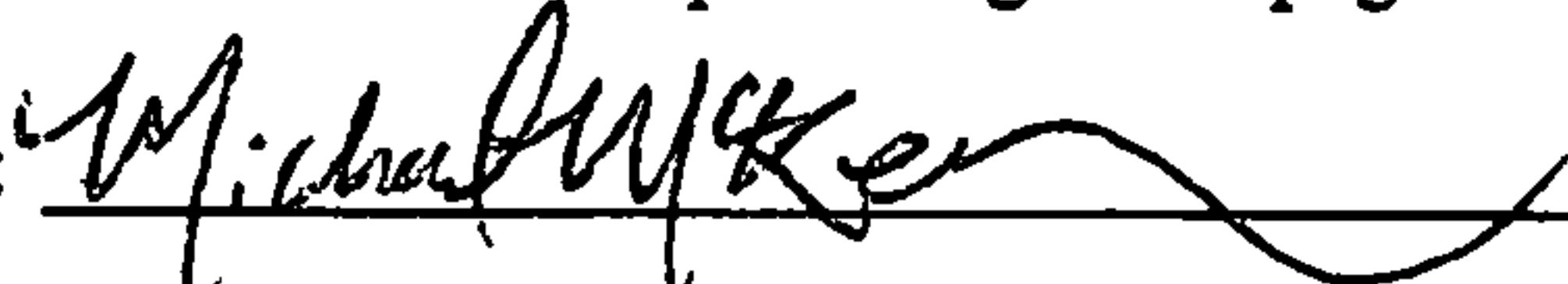
23. ☒ I represent that the travel expenses that will be paid for or reimbursed to Senate invitees do not include expenditures for recreational activities, alcohol, or entertainment (other than entertainment provided to all attendees as an integral part of the event, as permissible under Senate Rule 35).

24. List any entertainment that will be provided to, paid for, or reimbursed to Senate invitees and explain why the entertainment is an integral part of the event:

N/A

25. I hereby *certify* that the information contained herein is true, complete and correct. (For trips involving more than one sponsor, you *must* include a completed signature page for each additional sponsor):

Signature of Travel Sponsor:



Name and Title: Michael McKeon, Manager, Economic and Legislative Affairs

Name of Organization: Bertelsmann Foundation

Address: 1275 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Suite 601, Washington, DC 20004

Telephone Number: 202-621-1724

Fax Number:

E-mail Address: Michael.McKeon@bfna.org

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PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM
SIGNATURE PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL SPONSOR
(to be completed by each additional sponsor)

I hereby *certify* that the information contained on pages 1-4 of the certification form and any accompanying addenda, all submitted in connection with the August 1-4, 2018 trip
to New York, NY *Dates of Travel (Month Day, Year)* is true, complete, and correct.
Place of Travel

Signature of Travel Sponsor: Michael McKeon

Name and Title: Michael McKeon, Manager, Economic and Legislative Affairs

Name of Organization: Bertelsmann Foundation

Address: 1275 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - Suite 601, Washington, DC 20004

Telephone Number: 202-621-1724

Fax Number: _____

E-mail Address: Michael.McKeon@bfna.org

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2018 CEPI Participants



T. Michael Andrews (US Congress)

Chief Counsel and Majority Staff Director, US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA)

T. Michael Andrews is the Chief Counsel and Majority Staff Director for the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA), chaired by Senator John Hoeven (R-ND). SCIA has jurisdiction to study the unique problems of American Indian and Alaska Native peoples. These issues include, but are not limited to, Indian education, economic development, land management, trust responsibilities, health care, and claims against the United States. Prior to Capitol Hill, Andrews served in senior leadership at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice and the Pascua Yaqui Indian Tribe in Tucson, Arizona. In addition, Andrews also serves as the Chairman for the Victim Advisory Group for the United States Sentencing Commission as well as Staff Officer in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Andrews holds a BS and MBA from Morgan State University, MS from Salve Regina University in International Relations, JD from Roger Williams University School of law and a LLM from The George Washington University in Taxation.



Mark Beamish (European Parliament)

Administrator, Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)

Mark Beamish is an administrator for the secretariat of the Internal Market Committee in the European Parliament, and he previously worked for the secretariat of the Industry Committee (ITRE). Over the last 5 years, Mark has advised members of the European Parliament on new legislation in the area of digital policy in both these committees. His focus has been on laws relating to telecoms, cybersecurity and the data economy. He studied English and German law in London, Passau and Berlin.



Adam Bowering (European Parliament)

Head of Office for MEP Claude Moraes, Labour Party, UK

Adam Bowering is Head of Office to Claude Moraes, Chair of the European Parliament's Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee (LIBE). He advises the Committee chair on matters related to security and data protection, anti-terrorism, police cooperation in criminal matters, surveillance and cyber security, justice and the rule of law. Prior to working in the European Parliament, he worked as an EU policy analyst and public affairs consultant in the digital and healthcare sectors.



Lena Brommer (German Parliament)
Political Advisor to MGP Renate Künast, Green Party

Lena Brommer is a political advisor to MGP Renate Künast, former minister of consumer protection and chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection in the German Bundestag. Lena focuses on the ethical dimension of digitalization, with a special interest in handling algorithmic decision-making systems and tackling hate speech and disinformation.

In 2014-2016, as a training manager at a legal publishing house, Lena was in charge of professional trainings and academic journals for public servants, lawyers, and consultancies in Brussels, focusing on EU competition and data protection law. Lena graduated in European Public Administration (The Netherlands and European University Viadrina). Volunteering in a regional association, she led the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation.



Sabina Ciofu (European Parliament)
Policy Advisor to MEP Adina Vălean, National Liberal Party, Romania

Sabina Ciofu is Policy Advisor to MEP Adina Vălean in the European Parliament, focusing on tech-related legislation, trade and EU-US relations. She is also a PhD candidate in Defense Studies at King's College London, where she explores the relationship between artificial intelligence and foreign policy decision-making. Sabina is co-founder of the Gentlewomen's Club, co-organizer of Young Professionals in Digital Policy and a member of the Global Shapers Brussels Hub, where she develops several projects in support of the local community. She holds an MA in War Studies from King's College London and a BA in Classics from the University of Cambridge.



Kim Corbin (US Congress)
Democratic Staff Director for the US Congress Joint Economic Committee

Kim Corbin is the Democratic Staff Director for the US Congress Joint Economic Committee, in the Office of Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM). Before joining the Committee, Kim served as health advisor to Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), where she was the Minority Staff Director for the Finance Subcommittee on Health Care. She also served as health advisor to Senator Mark Udall (D-CO) and Representative Jerry Nadler (D-NY-10). Prior to her Hill service, Kim practiced law at Debevoise & Plimpton in New York City. Kim graduated from the George Washington University and earned her JD from Rutgers University School of Law.



Hugo Córdova (European Parliament)
Administrator, Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)

Hugo Córdova is an administrator for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy of the European Parliament, where he supports the legislative process facilitating negotiations, giving policy advice, and ensuring that internal rules and procedures are followed. Hugo focuses on digital policies, with particular emphasis on cybersecurity, digitalization of industry, and blockchain. Hugo has a double diploma in engineering from Politécnica de Madrid and Polytechnique de Paris and a master in European Affaires from the College of Europe (Bruges). He started his career as a research engineer for Arcelor and spent more than ten years working on innovation and industrial policy in the European Commission and the European Parliament. In his free time, Hugo is interested in electronics and the DIY movement.



Marie Sophie Held (German Parliament)
Head of Office for MGP Katharina Dröge, Green Party

Marie Sophie Held is Head of Office to Katharina Dröge, Member of the German Bundestag and Parliamentary Secretary for Alliance 90/The Greens. She has been working for Mrs. Dröge since 2014, mainly on competition and trade-related policy, providing legislative assistance for a major competition law reform that introduced new rules for the digital economy.

Marie Sophie holds a master's degree in Economics and Political Science from the University of Milan, and spent one semester at the Toulouse School of Economics. In 2010 she performed a traineeship with the European Commission at the Directorate General for Health and Consumers in Brussels, focusing on consumer markets. She started her professional career at Rohde Public Policy in Berlin, consulting for pharmaceutical companies on health-related legislation. Her mother tongue is German and she is also fluent in English, Italian and French.



Katherine Mongé (US Congress)
Senior Policy Advisor to House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA-12)

Katherine Mongé serves as Senior Policy Advisor to House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA-12). She advises the Leader on legislative and regulatory issues related to trade, tax, social security, and pensions. Prior to joining the Leader's staff, she was the Tax and Trade Counsel to Senator Benjamin L. Cardin, a member of the Senate Finance Committee. Earlier in her career, Katherine acted as a policy advisor to former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright and former Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol M. Browner. She also has private-sector experience as a tax lawyer and international strategy consultant.

Katherine holds a BS in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and a JD from Boston College Law School.



Loren Ponds (US Congress)
Tax Counsel, Committee on Ways & Means (Majority)

Loren Ponds serves as a Tax Counsel for the Majority staff of the Ways and Means Committee. Prior to joining the Committee staff, Loren worked in Ernst & Young's National Tax Department in Washington, DC, where she advised multinationals on the international tax aspects of their business operations – particularly in the areas of transfer pricing, supply chain restructuring and resolution of international tax disputes via advance pricing agreements or mutual agreement procedures, as outlined in double taxation treaties. Before joining EY, Loren also spent time as a Trainee at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, where she focused on issues related to transfer pricing and tax treaties.

Loren has an AB in French Language and Literature from Davidson College, a JD, cum laude, from American University – Washington College of Law, and an LL.M with distinction from Georgetown University Law Center.



Jacob Schrot (German Parliament)

Chief of Staff to MGP Prof. Dr. Stephan Harbarth, CDU and MGB Dr. Dietlind Tiemann, CDU

Jacob Schrot is Chief of Staff to MGP Prof. Dr. Stephan Harbarth, Vice-Chairman of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag. He also serves as Chief of Staff to MGP Dr. Dietlind Tiemann. Jacob Schrot chairs the Association of Parliamentary Staffers on Foreign and Security Policy, which connects 200+ staffers in a joint effort to contribute to the discourse on Germany's growing role in international affairs. In addition, he is the founder of the Initiative junger Transatlantiker / Young Transatlantic Initiative, a 600 member-strong NGO committed to strengthening relations between young generations on both sides of the Atlantic. He was President of the Federation of German-American Clubs from May 2014 to May 2017. Mr. Schrot was Personal Assistant to Patrick Sensburg, Chairman of the German Bundestag NSA-BND Inquiry Committee, focusing on matters of international cooperation between intelligence agencies. Jacob Schrot received his MA in Transatlantic Relations with stays at Humboldt-University Berlin, Free University Berlin and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He received his BA in Political Science with stays in Dresden and at American University in Washington, DC, where he also worked for a United States congressman and the German Marshall Fund.



Murat Vurucu (Private Sector)

Co-founder, Latentine

Murat has experiences as a strategy consultant focused on digital solutions and re-organizations. He has led diverse technical teams in product development and is a guest lecturer at ESCP Europe for data science and machine learning. He sold his previous business and co-launched Latentine to tackle the toughest scientific challenges in data. He studied industrial engineering and automation in Germany, Turkey and China and graduated with a Dipl. and M.Sc. in Management from ESCP Europe.



Stacie Whisonant (Private Sector)

Founder and CEO of PYT Funds, Inc.

Stacie Whisonant is the Founder and CEO of DC-based fintech company, PYT Funds, Inc. PYT provides students with the opportunity to utilize crowd-giving and alternative data to reduce the burden of student loan debt. By using a financial technology platform to help families meet the growing funding gap to pay for higher education, PYT is considered a disruptor to the finance industry and an innovative solution to the country's student loan crisis.

Stacie has not always been battling the \$1.2 trillion national student debt crisis. This Virginia native has more than 13 years of experience in the finance and banking industries with a background in mortgages, structured settlements and annuities. Stacie received a BA in Business Administration and Management from Longwood University, and is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc, where she continues her service to mankind through community service projects. Stacie is also a military veteran and served eight years as a United States Army Reservist. Lastly, Stacie likes to spend her free time with family, traveling, keeping up on the latest technologies and playing UNO.

Accolades and recognition include: U.S. Department of Education MLK Jr.'s Drum Major Innovative Service Award; 2016 chosen fellow of the prestigious Halcyon Incubator program in DC; graduate of the Lighthouse Labs accelerator program; selection for the Innovate Finance 2017 Women in Fintech Powerlist; and grand prize recipient of the StartRight! Women's Business Plan Competition. PYT Funds is also a notable winner of the Partnership Fund of New York City FinTech Innovation Lab in 2015.



Julia Wiechers (German Parliament)
Policy Advisor to MGP Tankred Schipanski, CDU

Julia Wiechers is a policy advisor to MGP Tankred Schipanski, Member of Parliament and spokesperson of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group on the Digital Agenda. In this capacity, Julia focuses on digital issues and coordinates parliamentary matters on the Committee on Digital Agenda.

Previously, she worked in public relations at the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance.

Julia completed a master's degree in German Studies, Economic Policy and English Studies in Münster.



Rachel Wolbers (Private Sector)
Policy Director, Engine

Rachel Wolbers is the Policy Director at Engine, a non-profit that advocates on behalf of startups. Engine promotes policies that drive entrepreneurship and create startup ecosystems. Her issue areas include intellectual property, intermediary liability, telecom, and technology policy. Previously, Rachel worked as a Legislative Director at TwinLogic Strategies, a bi-partisan, all female, tech-lobbying shop, and on Capitol Hill as Counsel to Congressman Blake Farenthold (R-TX), a member of the House Judiciary Committee. Rachel received her JD from Case Western Reserve University School of Law and her undergraduate degree in Economics from The George Washington University.



Paul Wolter (Private Sector)
Director of Public Affairs and Communications, German Startups Association

Paul Wolter studied Media Business and European Economic Studies. He is a communications professional focused on public relations and public affairs, with extensive experiences in the tech industry and startups. His activities within the startup ecosystem, especially for the German Startups Association, have allowed him to build a strong network of founders, venture capitalists, and economic and political journalists. For the German Startups Association, he is in dialogue with decision-makers in politics and advises on legislation with the aim to establish a VC- and a startup-friendly environment in Germany. Besides his professional activities, he is an active member of the social-democratic party of Germany (SPD) and was vice president of the Jusos Berlin, the youth organisation of the SPD Berlin, until spring 2018.